

Also see Examiner's Amendment: should read "TiO₂ coated SiO_y pigment"

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A platelet-shaped pigment comprising a layer obtained by calcining ^{coated pigment} TiO₂/SiO_y [^] [^] in a non-oxidising atmosphere, wherein $0.03 \leq y \leq 1.95$, or a platelet-shaped pigment obtained by calcining a TiO₂-metal-, coated Ti, Zr, Cr, or Zn platelet in a non-oxidising atmosphere at a temperature of more than 600°C.

2. (previously presented) A pigment according to claim 1, comprising

- (a) a substrate layer of SiO_z, wherein $0.03 \leq z \leq 2.0$,
- (b) an intermediate layer obtained by calcining ^{coated pigment} TiO₂/SiO_y [^] [^], wherein $0.03 \leq y \leq 1.8$, in a non-oxidising atmosphere, and
- (c) a TiO₂ layer.

3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) A pigment according to claim 1, comprising

- (a) a multi-layered platelet-shaped substrate layer, wherein the substrate layer has - having a core of SiO_{x1} that which core has a layer of SiO_{x2} [I]] layer, or a SiO_{y1} layer on the lower and upper surfaces, but not on the side faces,

or the substrate layer has a multi-layered platelet-shaped substrate layer having a core of SiO_{x2} that which core has a layer of SiO_{x1} layer, or SiO_{y1} layer on the lower and upper surfaces, but not on the side faces,

or the substrate layer has a multi-layered platelet-shaped substrate layer having a core of SiO_{y1} that which core has a layer of SiO_{x1} layer, or SiO_{x2} layer on the lower and upper surfaces, but not on the side faces,

or the substrate layer has a multi-layered platelet-shaped substrate layer having a core of a metal, that which core has a layer of SiO_{x1} layer, a SiO_{x2} layer, or a SiO_{y1} layer on the lower and upper surfaces, but not on the side faces,

- (b) an intermediate layer obtained by calcining TiO₂/SiO_{x1}, TiO₂/SiO_{x2}, or TiO₂/SiO_{y1} in a non-oxidising atmosphere and
 - (c) a TiO₂ layer,
- wherein $0.03 \leq x_1 < 0.70$, $0.70 \leq x_2 \leq 0.99$, and $1.00 \leq y_1 \leq 1.95$.

5. (previously amended) A pigment according to claim 2, wherein the substrate layer has a thickness of from 20 to 1000 nm.

6. (currently amended) A pigment according to either claim 2, wherein the intermediate layer has a thickness of from 1 to 500 nm.

7. (previously amended) A pigment according to claim 2, wherein the TiO_2 layer has a thickness of from 1 to 200 nm.

8. (currently amended) A process for the production of a pigment according to claim 4, wherein

(a) TiO_2 -coated SiO_y platelets, wherein $0.03 \leq y \leq 1.95$, or TiO_2 -coated ~~Ti, Zr, Cr, or Zn~~ metal platelets, are calcined in a non-oxidising gas atmosphere at a temperature of more than 600°C , and

(b) ~~the TiO_2 -coated SiO_y platelets are optionally treated at a temperature of more than 200°C , with air or another oxygen-containing gas.~~

9-10. (cancelled).

11. (previously presented) A cosmetic preparation, colorant, coating, printing ink, ink for security printing, plastic, textile, or glaze for ceramics and glass, comprising a pigment according to claim 1.

12. (currently amended) A platelet-shaped pigment according to claim 1, wherein $0.70 \leq y \leq 1.8$, ~~and the metal in TiO_2 /metal is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Cr, Zn, and Al.~~

13. (previously presented) A pigment according to claim 2, wherein $0.10 \leq z \leq 20$.

14. (previously presented) A pigment according to claim 2, wherein $0.70 \leq z \leq 20$.

15. (currently amended) A pigment according to claim 4, wherein the metal in the multi-layered platelet-shaped substrate layer having a core of a metal of component is Al.

16. (previously presented) A pigment according to claim 4, wherein $0.05 \leq x_1 \leq 0.50$, $0.70 \leq x_2 \leq 0.99$, and $1.1 \leq y_1 \leq 1.8$.

17. (previously presented) A pigment according to claim 2, wherein the intermediate layer has a thickness of from 10 to 50 nm.

18. (previously presented): A pigment according to claim 2, wherein the TiO_2 layer has a thickness of from 10 to 100 nm.

19. (previously presented) A pigment according to claim 2, wherein the TiO_2 layer has a thickness of from 20 to 50 nm.

20. (cancelled)

21. (previously presented) A process according to claim 8, wherein $0.70 \leq y \leq 1.8$.

22. (new) A process according to claim 8, wherein

(a) TiO_2 -coated SiO_y platelets, wherein $0.03 \leq y \leq 1.95$, are calcined in a non-oxidising gas atmosphere at a temperature of more than 600°C and then

(b) the TiO_2 -coated SiO_y platelets are treated at a temperature of more than 200°C , with air or another oxygen-containing gas.

23. (new) A pigment prepared according to the process of claim 22.

24. (new) A process according to claim 22, wherein in step (b) the TiO_2 -coated SiO_y platelets are treated at a temperature of more than 400°C , with air or another oxygen-containing gas.